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Inside Wallops

Scientists in the Snow: Improving Water & Climate Forecasts

Scientists and students from six federal agencies and many universities will study the snow packs of the Colorado Rockies from the ground, air and space this year. Their goal is to improve forecasts of springtime water supply, snowmelt floods, and to study how snow-cover affects the Earth's weather and climate.

The 2003 Cold Land Processes Experiment (CLPX) runs in two segments, February 19-25 and March 25-31. It is being conducted in the central Rocky Mountains of the western United States, where there is a wide array of different terrain, snow, soil, and ecological characteristics.

Additional studies will help design better sensors to measure the water content of snow from space. In the future, new remote sensing measurements coupled with water and weather forecast models should improve prediction of water supplies, floods, weather and climate.



NASA Photo

Scientists studying snow packs of the Colorado Rockies.

Jointly sponsored by NASA and NOAA, CLPX is concerned with landscapes where water is frozen either seasonally or permanently. Cold regions form a major component of the Earth's hydrological system.

This is the second year of intensive snow measurements in Colorado's mountains and high-elevation rangelands.

A major advance this year is the inclusion of several advanced satellite and airborne sensors to determine the best ways to conduct remote sensing of the global cryosphere.

Measurements from four aircraft and NASA's Terra and Aqua satellites will gather snow data by remote sensing.

The NASA Wallops P-3 Orion and a Twin-Otter aircraft managed by Wallops also are taking part in the mission.

The data gathered on the ground and from the aircraft will be compared to that obtained by the satellites to determine the accuracy of the satellite data.

Researchers hope to eventually measure snow quantity and frozen ground from space, anywhere in the world without a ground team, particularly in inaccessible areas. Ground teams, however, do play a crucial part in instrument validation and calibration.

Researchers from several NASA field centers will conduct the experiment with NOAA scientists from the National Weather Service's National Operational Hydrologic Remote Sensing Center (NWS/NOHRSC).

Other participants include scientists at the U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Forest Service, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Cold Region Research and Engineering Lab, the U.S. Geological Survey, the USDA Agricultural Research Service, and graduate students from universities around the world.

CLPX is sponsored by NASA's Terrestrial Hydrology Program and the Earth Observing System Program, and by NOAA's Office of Global Programs to address broad interagency objectives in hydrology, water resources, ecology, and atmospheric sciences.

NOAA is dedicated to enhancing economic security and national safety through the prediction and research of weather and climate-related events and providing environmental stewardship of our nation's coastal and marine resources.

NASA's Earth Science Enterprise is dedicated to understanding the Earth as an integrated system and applying Earth System Science to improve prediction of climate, weather, and natural hazards using the unique vantage point of space.

For more information, photographs and images:

<http://www.gsfc.nasa.gov/topstory/2003/0215clpx03.html>

E. T. Hickman Named WICC Employee of the Quarter



Photo by Tommy Bell

Jay Huston, (right), WICC Program Manager, recently presented a certificate to E.T. Hickman for outstanding performance on the Wallops Institutional Consolidated Contract (WICC) from Sept. 1, 2001 through Nov. 30, 2002.

Hickman's dedicated service, above and beyond the expected performance of duties as a Heavy Equipment operator, have helped to promote the five goals of the WICC, which are Safety & Health, Mission Readiness, Customer Service, Flexibility and Capability, and Best Value.

His initiative and skill, demonstrated while attaining his Mobile Crane Operators License in a period when there were no licensed crane operators available, kept several key construction projects on budget and on schedule.

Hickman's support on the Radar 11, Radar 8, SQL-32 antenna system, and Z-41 retrofit projects was outstanding in every sense. He is an inspiration to his co-workers and peers to perform quality construction with a "can-do" attitude. Most importantly, Hickman's adherence to prescribed safety standards and ability to recognize an unsafe or questionable situation brings untold value and success to the WICC.

Hickman's commitment to achieving the WICC's goals has fostered better working relations between the WICC contractors and Navy and NASA customers. His skills, devotion to professional services, and loyalty has brought great credit to the Cube Corporation team and its customers.

Hickman is the first WICC employee to be named "Employee of the Quarter". The award is part of a program instituted by Cube at Wallops to encourage and recognize individuals for achieving the five contract goals.

Wallops Shorts

In the News

National Geographic News

“NASA Rockets to Explore Northern Lights Next Week”

Eastern Shore News

“Black History Club Dinner”

Stars & Stripes

“NASA Plane Shadows Snow, Rain Over Sea of Japan”

The Daily Times

“Wallops Could be Major Player”

On the Road

John Campbell, Director of Suborbital and Special Orbital Projects, was on the panel for the Eastern Shore Chamber of Commerce’s Annual Economic Overheald held February 21.

Ed Parrott, PAO Teacher-on-Loan, conducted a workshop at the University of Maryland, Eastern Shore on February 22 for elementary school science and math teachers.

John Campbell also was the guest speaker for the Melfa Rotary Club’s meeting on February 25.

In the Field

Wallops personnel are in Alice Springs, Australia, waiting for weather suitable to launch the Ultra-Long Duration Balloon Test Flight.

Another Wallops team is at the Poker Flat Research Range, Alaska, preparing for the launch of six sounding rockets.

Penn State Gets Good Data

“Although we have many more months of work to do in analyzing and publishing the data that resulted from the flights of Nike Orions 31.124 and 31.125 (Wallops Island in May 2002), we have been quite pleased with the preliminary results and certainly consider both flights to have been ‘successful.’

The ground support we received during both flights, as well as through payload integration and testing, was outstanding.

Again, our thanks to the Sounding Rockets Program Office and NSROC teams for ensuring the success of these launches.”.....Dr. Charles Croskey, Penn State University

Wallops IFMP Expo

March 12

10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Building E-2, Williamsburg Room

The Integrated Financial Management Program (IFMP) will hold an Expo to help employees become acquainted with the Program and its benefits.

The IFM Program is to improve the financial, physical and human resource management processes throughout NASA. At the Agency level, the IFM Program is reengineering NASA’s business infrastructure and implementing technologies to provide better information for decision-making.

The IFM Program consists of a series of module project implementations that ultimately will incorporate all of NASA’s primary business processes under one umbrella.

During the Expo, the IFM Program will hold panels about the Program, tutorials of existing systems (Resume, Position Description and Travel Management), and demonstrations of future systems (Core Financial and Budget Formulation.

For more information on the IFM Program, visit:

<http://ifmpinfo.gsfc.nasa.gov/> or call Chris Koenemann on x66-1953.

Information Technology Security Training

Information technology (IT) security is a top priority for NASA and is considered to be a key component of successful mission accomplishment.

In order for employees to have the appropriate awareness and tools to protect our information systems, the Agency requires us to take annual IT security training.

All required courses are now available on the SOLAR web site: <https://solar.msfc.nasa.gov/solar/delivery/public/html/newindex.htm> and are required to be completed by June 13, 2002.

For further information contact IT Security Training Coordinator, Keisha Tigner on x66-8822.

Upcoming Events at the NASA Visitor Center

March 1: “Model Rocket Launch”

A model rocket launch will be held at 1 p.m. Models of various rockets will be launched.

Model rocketeers are invited to bring their own rockets and launch them.

The launch will be canceled if it is raining or winds exceed 18 mph.

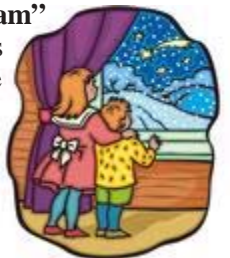
March 22: “Sun/Earth Connections” Children’s Program

Celebrate the impending equinox by learning all about our sun and how it affects us on Earth.

Following the presentation, each child will make their very own functional sundial. Materials will be provided by the Visitor Center. The program begins at 1 p.m. and will last 45 minutes.

March 29: “Girl Scout Sky Search Merit Badge Program”

Junior Girl Scouts are invited to come and complete the requirements to the Sky Search Merit Badge. Activities include making a star wheel, a constellation and more!



The program begins at 10 a.m. and will last until 4 p.m. Space is limited and pre-registration is required. Please call 757-824-2297 to sign up.

For further information on Visitor Center events and programs call Deanna Shrieves on x1148.

Centennial of Flight Milestone

41 years ago on February 20, 1962, Astronaut John Glenn became the first American to make an orbital flight in Friendship 7.

Explosives Safety Management & Engineering

April 15-17, 2003

8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Conference Room, Building E-2

This course is offered at no cost to NASA and contractor employees. Anyone interest in attending needs to complete and submit a Training Registration Request.

For further information contact Marvin Bunting by email:

Marvin.N.Bunting.1@gsfc.nasa.gov or call x2030.

Inside Wallops is an official publication of Goddard Space Flight Center and is published by the Wallops Office of Public Affairs, Extension 1584, in the interest of Wallops employees. Recent and past issues of *Inside Wallops* also may be found on the NASA Wallops Flight Facility homepage: www.wff.nasa.gov

Editor

Betty Flowers

Rev. Charles Bates, (right) Pastor of the Leemont Charge, United Methodist Churches, was the Black History Month speaker on Tuesday, February 11.

He shared his views on how we need to work together, regardless of race, towards peace in this nation and world.

Photo by James Mason-Foley

